

1715 hours
Wednesday, 3 Oct 73

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Status of Coordination of Draft DCI Response to
Admiral Anderson re COINS

1. Mr. Brownman has concurred telephonically. No changes.

2. General Thomas for PRG suggests the changes shown in green in the attached. He particularly recommends deletion of reference to the USIB Security Committee because he understands its status at present is very unsettled. He also recommends reference to specific DCIDs affecting IHC; these are DCIDs 1/4 and 1/15 (attached).

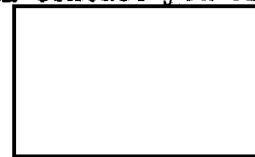
3. Mr. Briggs concurs in the memo as written. He believes however it would be prudent to call Mr. Colby's attention to the last sentence of the subparagraph headed "File Reliability." Briggs says that this statement represents an important new departure and Mr. Colby should be well aware of its import before signing this letter.

STATINTL

4. Attached is the reply from Paul Walsh on behalf of the DDI. [REDACTED] OSR has told me by phone that he is the author of this draft. Obviously, there is a basic difference here that I cannot resolve relative to paragraph 1 as DDI sees it. Briggs has read the Walsh memo, and notwithstanding the DDI position he tells me that he likes your memo as written.

5. Mr. Duckett has been in a meeting all afternoon. His secretary expects that he will get to this tonight and will contact you or me tomorrow morning.

STATINTL



(There is a typo at the outset of paragraph 3; the memo should read: "There area areas, however, ... ")

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

CLASSIFIED BY 013469
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF E. O. 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY:
 § 5B(1), (2) (2) or () (circle one or more)
 AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON
DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE
 (unless impossible, insert date or event)

3 October 1973

Dear Admiral:

Responding to your letter of September 25th, I am initially approaching COINS with two steps in mind. Most immediately I want to satisfy myself that I have developed a sound basis for making the judgments that lie ahead. To do this, I am now selecting an experienced individual from CIA and have asked the ASD(I) to supply another. These two individuals will be charged with making a prompt assessment for me of what is feasible relative to a larger-scale community system, the capabilities it might have, and the costs it might incur. I do not intend to re-do the so-called Malkin study, but I feel the need for a fairly current assessment that will put things in my frame of reference.

Pending the results of this survey ~~with which I expect to understand the essence of the problem~~ I am open-minded as to the future architecture and overall concept for COINS. I believe certain technical upgrading is immediately possible, and Dr. Hall and I are moving to make initial commitments that will realize benefits for system users in the short run. Given the severe budget squeeze that faces us, I have yet to determine how much further it is effective to go in building a sophisticated on-line system. The need for COINS, as a communication network, to interface with DoD's IDHS and WWMCCS, raises technical problems in which the intelligence community does not have full freedom to determine solutions.

There ~~are~~ ^{ARE} areas, however, where we can make immediate progress. We will improve files now in COINS and set standards for those that are placed in the system in the relatively near future. Here, I have undertaken a number of specific actions, along the following lines:

-- File content and coverage. I am now taking steps to involve the substantive USIB committees in working with the USIB Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) to validate community need for particular kinds of data and to provide guidance on the content, coverage and format of files. For example, if COINS were to include a new file on the subject of nuclear energy, JAEIC should be involved in providing insights on behalf of potential users. The Intelligence Community (IC) Staff also has a responsibility in the matter of file content.

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-- File completeness. A survey is now underway by the IC Staff to illustrate and characterize the security and dissemination restrictions that must be dealt with to make data in COINS files more complete and accessible throughout the community. Based on the results of this survey, which I expect to have in hand within two weeks, we will begin an orderly examination of this problem, ~~using the USIB Security Committee.~~

-- User assistance. I am asking that the interagency Data Base Working Group make, as a regular part of its survey of files for COINS, an examination of the adequacy of cross-reference notations and user instructions contained in the files. Where worthwhile improvements can be made, we will modify the programs that produce data for users.

-- File reliability. Upon completion of the assessment that I mentioned at the outset, I expect to share the results of that survey with USIB members. At that time I will ask them to accept specific responsibilities for producing and maintaining certain COINS files and for assuring their accuracy and completeness.

In our version

-- Analytical content. The IC Staff is now testing, for use in crisis and warning situations, the rapid exchange of current intelligence in a national operations and intelligence watch officers network running among the Washington area command centers. Watch officer bulletins might prove a worthwhile addition to COINS files. ~~I am particularly interested in this project because it could take us one more step in expanding the on-line use of formatted intelligence materials for a somewhat more sophisticated user than the average COINS user at present.~~

have changed

I reactivated the USIB Intelligence Information Handling Committee ~~which had been dormant since the retirement of General Robert Taylor last March.~~ I have instructed the new ~~incumbent~~ to take energetic action to carry out ~~these~~ responsibilities that bear on the steady upgrading of COINS. In another direction, you will find that the Objectives for the Intelligence Community, which I forwarded to the President on September 6th, and which as you know he has approved, include actions that could result in the development of a number of new data files and arrays. If any of these appear appropriate for COINS, we will, I think, be able to recognize this at the outset of our planning and take advantage of the opportunity.

W. E. Colby

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MEMORANDUM FOR: PRG

25X1 [redacted] Attached memo has been drafted by Dr. [redacted] and me, to reply to Admiral Anderson's letter on COINS (also attached).

The approach taken in our draft is intentional, in that we understand the DCI does not desire at this time to respond directly to all the specifics of the PFIAB letter.

I am instructed to request your review and concurrence this afternoon. Thank you for your cooperation. [redacted]

Acting Chairman, IHC

(DATE)

3 October 1973

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

25X1

1415 hours
4 October 73

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1. Dr. Steininger, on behalf of DDS&T, has no problems with our draft memo other than the two points raised by DDI's memo.

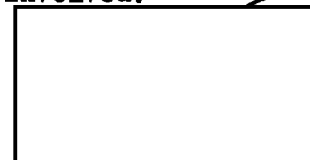
2. On the reference to NOIWON, he says that his understanding of the DCI's reaction to the recent briefing (by General Graham or his people, I believe, re a Family of Products) was to not commit himself on the interrelation or competition between NOIWON and NIOC. Therefore, Dr. Steininger thinks that this paragraph should be deleted in our draft letter to PFIAB. I have no basis for judgment, not having attended the meeting.

3. Dr. Steininger takes a middle ground between our original draft and Paul Wahsl's change of the first paragraph. He accepts the need to avoid appearing to now try to undo the history of the past months, in which ASD(I) has been named Executive Agent and is operating in conjunction with IC Staff to address the questions raised by PFIAB. On the other hand, his recollection of the meeting with the DCI (Management Committee meeting?) is as follows:

a. An internal CIA committee, including representation of DDS&T and DDI, is to be formed, including computer experts, analysts, users, etc. This group is to be charged with the formulation for the DCI of a concept paper that will delineate objectives, look at the possible contribution of CIA files to a community effort, CIA's need for COINS, and CIA's views on type(s) of systems. The results of this effort were to provide a basis for working with ASD(I) representative(s) to develop a community paper.

b. Dr. Steininger thinks that the DCI's letter to PFIAB should state that he is at work on a concept paper, since this appears to be the main thrust of Admiral Anderson's letter.

c. Dr. Steininger suggests that we might rework the 4th sentence of para. 1 of our draft letter, stressing "concept paper" as end product. Behind the scenes, he suggests there could be an internal memo of understanding between IC and CIA DDs, promptly setting up the in-house committee. Meanwhile, to avoid appearing to be stalling on moving ahead with ASD(I), perhaps the chairman of the internal CIA committee could start with ASD(I) on aspects of the problem where CIA is not significantly involved.



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